

NORTH AMERICAN INFOSHOPS

Wooden Shoe Books, 112 S. 20th St.,
Philadelphia PA 19103

Civic Media Center, 1021 W. University,
Gainesville, FL 32603, 904-373-0010

Blackout Books, 50 Avenue B, NYC, NY
10009, 212-777-1967

Left Bank Books, 92 Pike St., Seattle WA
98101, (206) 622-0195

Autonomous Zone Infoshop, 1573 N. Milwaukee
#420, CHILL 60622 (street address: 2311
W. North Ave., Chicago), 312-278-0775

A-Space, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia,
PA 19143

Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight St., SF
CA 94117, 415-431-8355

Librarie Alternative, 2035 St.-Laurent,
Montreal, Canada PQ H2X 2T3

Epicenter Zone, 475 Valencia 2nd Floor, San
Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 431-2725.

Internationalist Books, 405 West Franklin St.,
Chapel Hill NC 27516, (919) 942-1740

Who's Emma, 69 1/2 Nassau St., Toronto
Ontario, Canada M5T 1M6

Information Terror, Antioch college, 795
Livermore St., yellow springs OH 43620

Firecracker Infoshop, 72 Franklin Street,
Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 753-4002.

Rainbow Bookstore Collective 426 W. Gilman,
Madison, WI 53703.

Sabat Infoshop, Box 8137, Victoria BC V8W
3R8, Canada, 604-360-2772

Lucy Parsons Center, 259 A Elm Street,
Somerville, MA 02144 617-629-2649

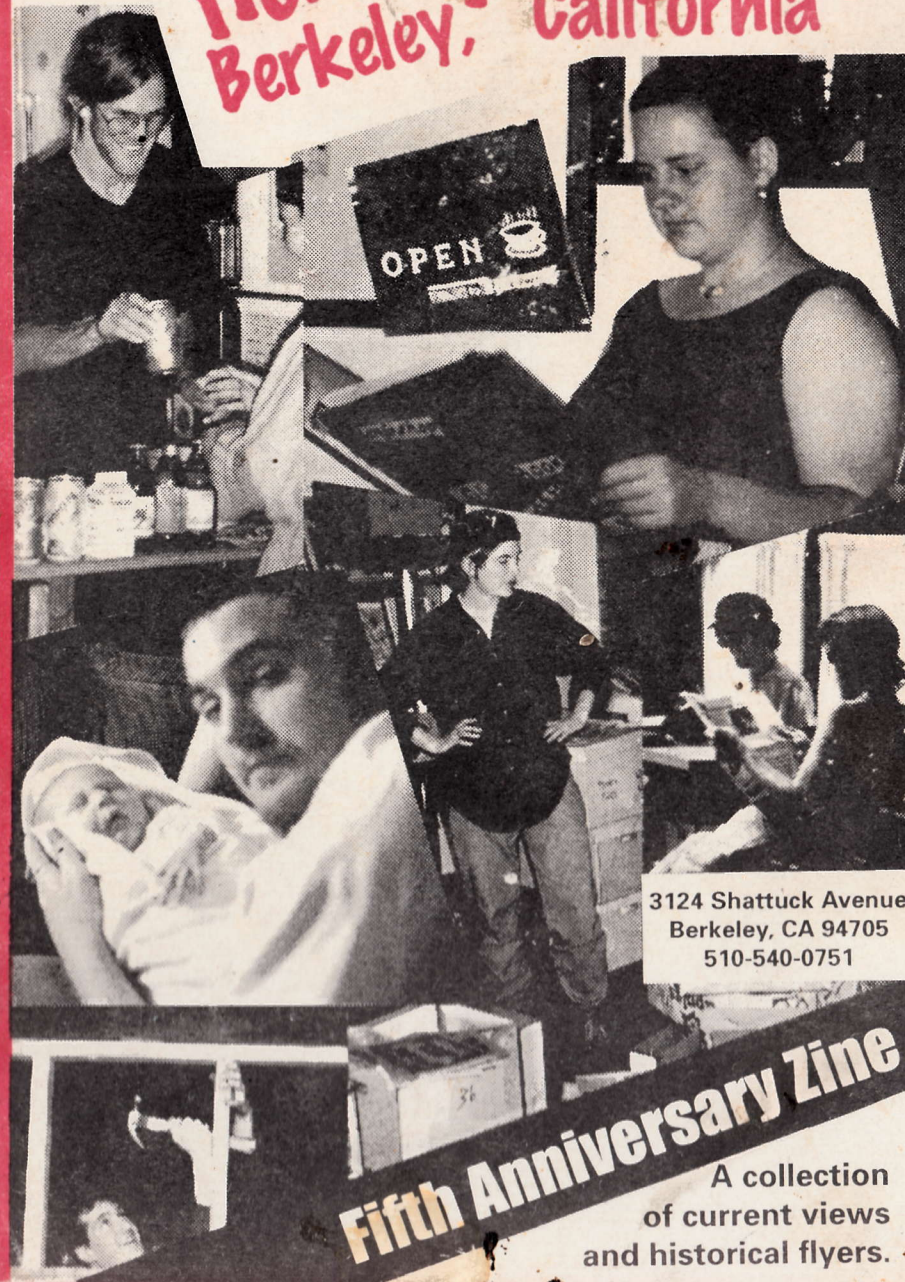
Arisel Resource Center, 2441 Lyndale Ave.
South, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Biblioteca Social Reconstruir, Morelos 45,
Desp. 206, Col Centro, CP06006, Mexico 1DF,
Mexico, 01525-512-0886

Crescent Wrench Books & Infoshop, 1007 St.
Mark Street, New Orleans (504) 944-4907

Left Hand Book Collective, 1825 Pearl
Street, 2nd Floor, Boulder, CO 80302.

Long Haul Infoshop Berkeley, California

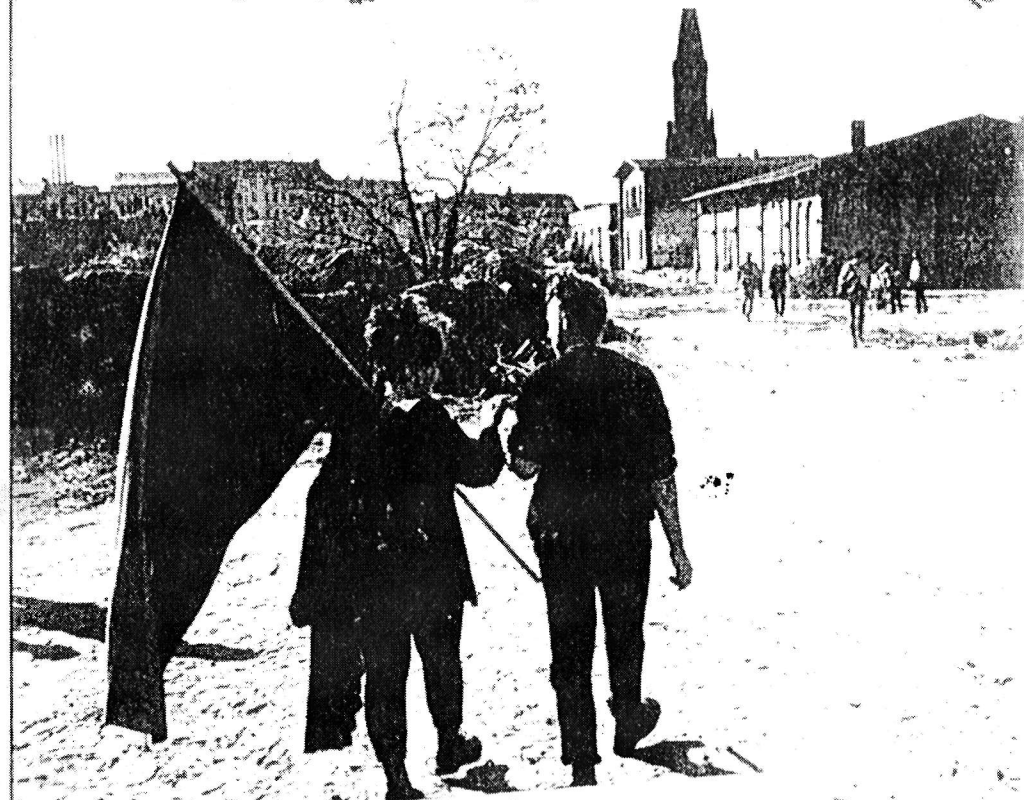


3124 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
510-540-0751

Fifth Anniversary zine
A collection
of current views
and historical flyers.

INFOSHOP

Grand Opening!



Friday the 13th of August
after East Bay Critical Mass 8:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday too.

INFOSHOP @
the LONG HAUL
3124 Shattuck Ave.
(2 blocks east of Ashby Bart)
Berkeley (510) 848-6466

A Wild Weekend in Berkeley



Friday the 13th of August

- 5:30 Critical Mass Bikeride
(starting at Berkeley Bart)
- 8:30 Infoshop Grand Opening Celebration
(at Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave.)

Saturday

- 1:00-7:00 First open day of Infoshop
- Possible workshops:
 - *Getting arrested; how to deal (legal & physical aspects)
 - *Composting
 - *How to start your own liberation radio
- 1:30 S.F. Mime Troupe Play: "Offshore" at Ho Chi Minh Park

Sunday

- 12:00 Food Not Bombs Festival in People's Park
(lots of bands & feasting. Broadcasted live at 88.1 in Southside)
- 11-3:00 Ecology Center's Farmer's Market on Haste/ Telegraph

Call ahead to let us know if you're coming:
EBFNB - (510) 644-4187, Long Haul - (510) 848-6646

WHAT is an infoshop?

The Berkeley INFOSHOP is a resource and information center for activists, radicals and anti-authoritarians. The INFOSHOP has a reading room with access to a library of political books, leaflets, texts, magazines and newspapers. The INFOSHOP stocks flyers about upcoming events. Some books, magazines, stickers and t-shirts are available for free or for a donation. The INFOSHOP functions as an archive for the political community. We network with movement centers around the world to bring up-to-date information on what's really happening elsewhere.

NEW INFO-SHOP OPEN in BERKELEY

In August the first infoshop in North America will open in the Long Haul activist center in Berkeley. An Infoshop is a radical activist center and resource commonly found in Germany and other European countries. They distribute information amongst the local community and between national and international contacts. With their decentralized and autonomous nature, they play an important role in building radical networks from the bottom up.

We're excited to be operating out of the Long Haul, which has been a community-building center in the Bay Area since 1979 when it was started by one of the founders of SDS. The Infoshop will have a wide selection of political magazines, books, pamphlets and

flyers to read there or to buy/take. We will sell homemade shirts, and patches. The Infoshop will be different from other movement resources such as radical bookstores, in that there will be an emphasis on using the space to do political work, rather than to sell literature. Political activists and groups are urged to use the Infoshop and the Long Haul to do research/reading, hold meetings, discussions, events, make flyers, banners, papers etc. There will be an autonomous women's only day/night at the infoshop weekly, for women to exchange ideas, information, put together zines, flyers plan actions, slumber parties etc., whatever is desired. The politics of the Infoshop collective are radical anti-authoritarian with many political differences among us. We are open to sharing the space and working with a great diversity of radical political perspectives. If you feel we're lacking, we welcome donations of materials of all sorts (i.e. magazines, books, texts, flyers, videos, etc.)

We will have one more work party on Saturday June 26th starting at noon, so come and help set up the Infoshop. Before we open we will publicize our opening times widely. For more info, call, write, or drop by.

Infoshop @ 3124 Shattuck
The Long Haul Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 848-6466
(510) 84-Union

Information is Power

An infoshop is a cross between a radical bookstore and a movement archive. Activists go there to read or buy movement literature; buy paraphenalia such as stickers, masks and spray paint; attend meetings, lectures or films; or just plain hang out.

Infoshops are prevalent in Europe, especially in Germany where there are over sixty. They form a decentralized information network, distributing magazines, flyers etc. to local activists and providing information about local activities to other infoshops. Many papers are produced at infoshops and distributed through the infoshop network. When urgent communication is needed, in cases of a state crackdown or fascist attack, infoshops can call or fax other infoshops who can then mobilize local activists.

The infoshop network is an important part of autonomist left movements in many European countries. Infoshops meet twice a year in Germany and twice a year European wide. At these gatherings infoshop collectives see what other groups are doing, exchange information, and discuss strategy and theory.

Most infoshops rent their space, but many are in squats. Others use part of a cafe or

center. Some are run by one collective, while others have a different group in charge each day. None of them have paid positions. Most infoshops have a women-only day either weekly or monthly.

In addition to the groups running the infoshop, other groups use it as a meeting place, and as a mailing address. The latter is especially useful for security reasons. Instead of using a private address, which can be dangerous because of fascists and police repression, groups can have a mailbox at an infoshop. If the group has problems with their mail being opened or stolen, they can use a double envelope: inner addressed to the group and outer to the infoshop. Infoshops could play a useful role here as well. With all the anarchist and leftist papers around, no one person can get them all. Infoshops, receiving numerous movement papers, would help keep the movement better informed. Infoshops can be equipped with a telephone, fax, or computer, making communications that much easier between groups. And infoshops serve the role of a movement center, building community and facilitating action.



Proposal for an Infoshop at the Long Haul

5/30/93

We, the Infoshop collective, want to open and operate an Infoshop in the Long Haul.

1. CONCEPT

We are radical, anti-authoritarian and revolutionary with many political differences among us. We identify with movements that share our politics and we are open to working with others that don't.

An infoshop is a movement center, found commonly in Germany and other European countries. Infoshops distribute information among local movements and between local, national and international contacts.

Infoshops are a resource to local movements by providing:

- 1) information, in the form of magazines, books, texts, flyers, videos, discussion and study groups;
- 2) paraphernalia like T-shirts, stickers, patches, spray paint, masks and gloves.
- 3) space for movement activities such as cafés, meetings and workshops;
- 4) a structure which is continuously active and visible, not just during riots.

Infoshops, with their decentralized and autonomous nature can play an important role in building radical networks from the bottom up.

The concept of the Infoshop is completely compatible with that of the Long Haul, as a movement center and information provider. The Infoshop would bring interest, revenue and activity to the Long Haul. People who are currently active in the Long Haul could continue their activity, possibly opening the Infoshop on a certain day with a special theme (i.e. Palestine, labor, etc.).

2. PHYSICAL SPACE

We want the Infoshop to be in the front room of the Long Haul, the store front. This is the space that needs to be kept open if the Long Haul is to survive. It is also the only space in the Long Haul which can draw people from off the street. We will spend a number of work weekends preparing the space for use. This includes painting walls, painting the outside, building shelves, getting furniture, and organizing material. We propose to get a number of cafe-type tables and chairs where people can sit while they read materials. We also propose to procure or build shelves designed to attractively display various publications. A curtain would be hung across the door leading to the back room. The Infoshop collective will have access to the back portions of the Long Haul. We want the space to look good, but

The Long Haul space is a safe zone for all people to work and spend time in. We do not tolerate offensive or oppressive behavior (including sexism, racism, homophobia, or intolerance and insensitivity to any people).



we also want people to feel comfortable hanging out there. In order to make these physical changes, we would like agreement from the Long Haul to remove all items currently in the front room so that we can start out fresh.

3. GIRL'S DAY AT LONG HAUL

One of the proposed projects to be undertaken with the Infoshop is a weekly women's only space. Even in our "community" gender dynamics take an oppressive, albeit more subtle, tone. For this reason, many women feel uncomfortable, at times even unsafe, speaking their minds. A women's only day would help build solidarity and a more radical feminist consciousness in the community. Women together exploring the hidden manipulation, sexual & otherwise, so prevalent in this world, is an immensely important activity in the process of realizing our capabilities, dreams and phantasies.

We haven't picked a day for a women's only space in the Long Haul; this would be negotiable taking into consideration other activities and events in the space. It would be helpful to have a consistent day each week to give women a feeling of consistency.

4. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

We will pay \$200 a month toward the rent of the Long Haul and a portion of the utility bills. We think this is a reasonable amount considering that we will be doing a lot to bring interest to the Long Haul and keep it open. We will raise this money, and the money we need for operating the Infoshop by various means. We plan on selling magazines, paraphernalia, coffee and other light retail. We plan on holding benefits at nightclubs or bars. Another idea is to host low-key events every week such as a movie night, light guitar music or educational workshops. If need be we are also willing to come up with the money among the collective members.

5. STAFFING

We propose to keep the Infoshop open 3 or 4 days per week during the first months of the project with 2 people working while the Infoshop is open. A number of people have already volunteered to work shifts. Regular hours would be posted in the window and advertised. Some fundraising events would take place during staffed hours.

6. PUBLICITY

To publicize the Infoshop and draw interested people, we propose to paint a large sign that would hang outside the Long Haul advertising the Long Haul in general and the Infoshop. We also propose to have a Grand Opening for the Infoshop that would be widely advertised and publicized to let people know that it is happening. Further, once the Infoshop is in operation, we plan to print a monthly calendar of

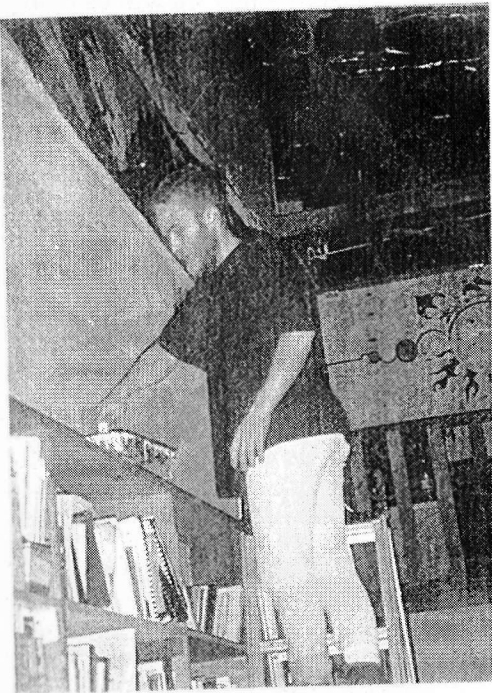
events (similar to La Peña's calendar) at the Infoshop (and Long Haul) that would be distributed to bulletin boards and other locations around the area. Information about events would also be sent to the East Bay Guardian, Express, Daily Cal, etc.

7. TIMELINE

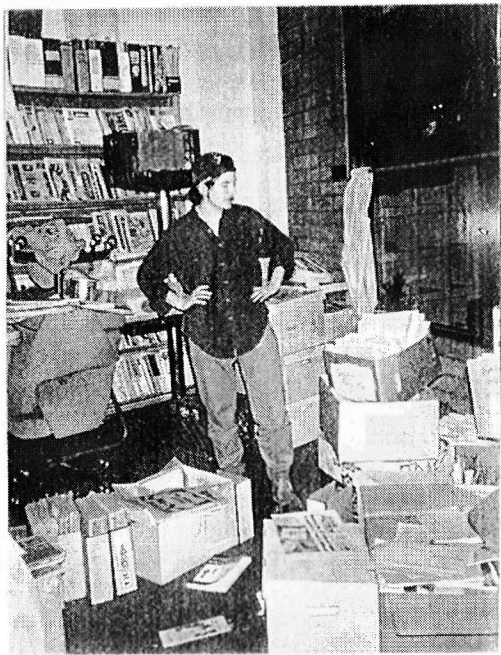
This timeline contains approximate dates of major milestones on the road towards opening the proposed Infoshop. Assuming this proposal is approved, meetings will also be ongoing during this period to finalize how the Infoshop will work, issues of collective process and other issues. We propose to make most of the physical changes to the space in June since many members of the collective will be out of town at various activist gatherings during the month of July.

Work Party (Sabotnik) schedule

- Sunday, June 6-- start removing items currently in the front room, being cleaning, painting and construction.
- Sunday, June 13--continue physical changes.
- Saturday, June 19--continue physical changes.
- Saturday, June 26--continue physical changes
- July - Early August--Grand Opening Event advertised locally. Staffing starts at this time.



The Infoshop collective



a benefit for the Infoshop

Wendy O-matic

Spoken Word

WITH

it costs \$3-5

TALENTED

Ed Asner and the Little Banditz

Wed. July 21st 8³⁰pm

Your Place Too

BREAKER

TALENTED

A Forum on Transgender Issues

Featuring:

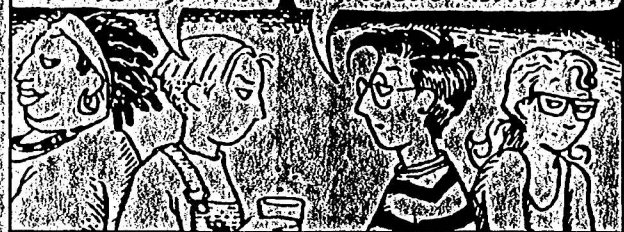
Susan Stryker

Male to female transsexual, lecturer UCB, founding member of Transgender Nation

-and other speakers including representatives from Transgender Nation and FTM (Female-to-Male)

EXCUSE ME, I JUST NEED TO SAY I WAS REALLY SHOCKED THAT YOU LET A MAN READ HERE TONIGHT. MEN HAVE ACCESS TO THE WHOLE WORLD WHY SHOULD WE SHARE OUR MEAGER RESOURCES WITH THEM?

UH, WELL, FIRST OF ALL, HE'S NOT A MAN, HE'S A LESBIAN. I MEAN, SHE'S A LESBIAN. AND SECOND, I WANT THIS SERIES TO BE INCLUSIVE, AND NOT SOME PRIVATE CLUB. I MEAN, WHO AM I TO QUESTION SOMEONE ELSE'S IDENTITY?



Mondays from 4-8 have been women only space at the Infoshop for over a year. Recently we were personally confronted with the complexity of the questions around transgender issues. We felt the need for more information and discussion, so we decided to put on this forum. This event is open to people who currently or have previously identified as women.

7pm Monday, October 10

Infoshop@Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck, Berkeley
childcare provided with 48 hours notice, call Peter at 510.601.5673
For more info, call 510.540.0751 wheelchair accessible FREE

LONG HAUL/INFOSHOP Anniversary Celebration August 6 through August 14, 1994

A week of events to celebrate a successful first year for the INFOSHOP and the fifteenth anniversary of the LONG HAUL.

August 6 Saturday	Hiroshima Day - 49 years of anti-nuclear resistance. 2:00 pm Tri-Valley C.A.R.E.S. gives a grassroots perspective on the current situation at Livermore and the nuclear industry. Katya Komisaruk will describe her plowshares action, along with other speakers involved in grassroots anti-nuclear action.
August 7 Sunday	Food Not Bombs Extravaganza 4:00 pm Video Footage of F.N.B. arrests in S.F. 7:30 Infocafé F.N.B. - cheap delicious food to benefit F.N.B. 8:00 Open Mike - performances by the people
August 8 Monday	Women's Day - Women only 7:00 pm 3 short films about your genitals. "No Going Back" - a self-help video with classic footage of a menstrual extraction. Plus: "How to Female Ejaculate" and "Church Ladies for Choice."
August 9 Tuesday	Cuckoo's Nest Survival Guide- video and discussion 6:30 pm ...on the issue of forced psychiatric drugging and related deaths. Support Coalition International's confrontation with the mental health system. A Humane Services for the Mentally-Crisised event
August 10 Wednesday	Prisoners' Justice Day 3:00 pm Carpool from the Long Haul to the Rally against the Department of Corrections. (4:30, Golden Gate & Larkin, S.F.) 7:30 Return to the Long Haul for dinner and an informational night on political prisoners with video and speakers.
August 11 Thursday	Social Club 7:30 pm A relaxed evening viewing a movie plus snacking and socializing. "Sleeper" by Woody Allen begins at 8:30 pm. The Social Club is a group dedicated to critical social theory.
August 12 Friday	Critical Mass Bike Ride Bicyclists take the streets. 5:30 pm Meet at Berkeley BART to ride en masse. 7:30 Rendezvous at the LONG HAUL after the ride for a bicycle entertainment evening.
August 13 Saturday	OPEN HOUSE @ the LONG HAUL/INFOSHOP We will be open from noon till late, and a variety of activities will be happening all day long, so come in to celebrate our anniversary and to find out what the LONG HAUL is all about. (see adjoining box for a schedule of events).
August 14 Sunday	INFOCAFÉ by the INFOSHOP 7:00 pm Café prepared by the INFOSHOP collective ourselves. Open Mike performance and reminiscing of the LONG HAUL's history. This will be a casual party into the night on the first day of our second year with the INFOSHOP @ the LONG HAUL.

LONG HAUL/ INFOSHOP
3124 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94705
(510) 540-0751
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
Childcare available w/ 48 hr. notice

The INFOSHOP will be open 3-9pm every day (except Saturday 12-9) during the Anniversary Celebration.

The Anniversary Celebration is for the general public - please come in to find out about the INFOSHOP @ the LONG HAUL.

August 13 Saturday Open House
All Day Everyone Welcome
12 noon Face painting for kids of all ages.
12:30 Storytelling hour.
2:00 Movie party. An entertaining movie for young and old.
2:30 Spiral Garden's tour. Meet at the LONG HAUL for a guided tour of their radical urban gardens in the neighborhood. Bring a bicycle.
4:00 Radical Film time. Free political (also entertaining) film.
6:00 Musical smorgasbord. Various musicians will play mellow music and sing songs of struggle throughout dinner.
7:00 Dinner is served into the night... more food, partying, music, films, carousing, reminiscing, discussion, conversation, and celebration.

TOURS - Between each event will be a brief tour of the LONG HAUL and the projects herein. There will also be displays from our archives and our past.

Children's
Afternoon

A brief and incomplete history of the Infoshop and Long Haul

Legend has it that in 1979, Alan Haber and other Berkeley radicals started the Long Haul at its current location. Alan was (and is--he lives in Michigan now) a founder of the 1960's New Left organization Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). SDS was one of the most important 60s radical organizations. According to James Miller's book *Democracy in the Streets* "The notion of the New Left as an movement of college activists dedicated to an ideal of democracy was, to a surprising extent, the creation of one man: Robert Alan Haber."

Al also created the Long Haul, but by then he was way past his college student days. In starting the Long Haul, I think Al wanted to provide a home base for activism and a space to provide cultural and social support to a vibrant and long-term activist community. When I got to know Al in the 80s, he wanted to promote "Union." Union was much more than a labor union: it meant a group for developing radical theory and tactics, conducting actions and campaigns, and supporting its member's lives in the long haul. Al didn't think everyone had to be in the same Union -- just that everyone be in one. He would often say "Join a Union and Pay Your Dues." Al's ideas about sustaining struggle over long periods of time -- far beyond the early 20s milieu of college and just-post college activism -- were expressed as early as 1967 in his brilliant essay (written with his then wife Barbara Haber) "Getting By with a Little Help from Our Friends."¹ That essay discusses how people can sustain radicalism through their whole lives in a (youth oriented) radical movement that often marginalizes anyone who gets older, gets a better job, has children, etc. The essay suggests forming communes to keep people honest. Al was involved in communes in Berkeley in the early 70s. Perhaps out of that experience he developed ideas that eventually became the Long Haul.

Again according to legend, when Al originally rented the Long Haul it was a burned out massage parlor. The sign for "Sugar's Den

Health Spa and Massage" now lives in the middle loft. The fire had been in the rear of the space where the back loft is now. The roof had burned off at the back. You can still see the charred wood beams towards the back of the big room, and the new roof over the rear loft. Al rented the entire space for \$100 and started making repairs. Over the years, sky lights were put in, the cubicles that had been used for the "massages" were reduced to the three "offices" in the middle of the space, and bookshelves were built. The long hallway that led to the massage cubicles, plus the political vision of the space, gave it its name. Until recently, the long hallway still retained its cheesy, red porno fake leopard skin carpet. The last massage table from the good old days now lives in the middle office.

Through the 1980s Al, his partner Odile, and lots of others tried to make the Long Haul what it is now: an office space for a variety of political groups with a big room in back for benefits and meetings. At various points there were weekly dinners or pot lucks and some months there were calendars of events. Other times there was less activity and Long Haul fell into debt and was in danger of closing. Gradually the rent went up and eventually the Northern California Land Trust (NCLT), which had an office at Long Haul, bought the building. Slingshot Issue #15 in the fall of 1988 explained the situation: "The Long Haul is a space in Berkeley that has existed for about 10 years. It is a space where different groups can hold meetings and where students can go to study. Unfortunately, the Long Haul is threatened with eviction unless they are able to come up with all the back rent. It is a really nice space across from La Peña and the Starry Plough, the rent is pretty cheap and it would be a shame to lose it. Different projects could be started like an alternative cafe, movie series, an Anarchist bookstore, an alternative library, etc. There are also open house potlucks every Thursday from 5-7. Drop by and meet the people there."

In the spring of 1993, a number of forces led to the creation of the Infoshop, and ultimately

the transfer of the operation of Long Haul from Al and his (mostly 60's veteran) crew, to the current, younger anarchist crew. For a few years, activists in the community had wanted to start an anarchist cafe or community space. The late 80s and early 90s saw an upsurge of street action and an enlarged radical community, but between actions things were disorganized. Riots and actions like the Haste Street occupation, the May 19 riot, the Barrington Hall defense, Day of Action riot, Volleyball resistance, Rosebud riots and Rodney King riots gave anarchists a sense of power. In 1992, there were meetings about starting a cafe but no space could be located.

Then in early 1993, activists returned from Europe with stories of a network of Infoshops there. At the same time, word got out that Long Haul was facing its worse crisis ever: it had been served with an eviction notice by a large San Francisco lawfirm hired by the increasingly corporate NCLT. Long Haul immediately organized a picket at the NCLT board meeting and the NCLT, still remembering its radical roots, agreed to negotiate with Long Haul, if Long Haul would pay \$5,000 in back-rent and reorganize itself.

The Infoshop Collective had its first meeting in early May, 1993 to write a proposal to the Long Haul for an Infoshop at Long Haul. Perhaps the first decision of the collective was that we would have to get rid of all the old used shoes supposedly "for sale" in the front room during our first meeting if we rented the space. The collective wanted to channel money and energy to Long Haul in order to save it from eviction and we wanted to start an Infoshop/Anarchist cafe that had been dreamed of for years. After two meetings, we presented a written proposal to the Long Haul meeting which, after expressing worries that we would have too many punks and/or paint the front room black, was accepted. Infoshop started out paying \$200 a month for the front room, which was about a quarter of the Long Haul's monthly rent at that time. In June and July the Collective had weekly work parties to clean out the front room, paint it, build shelves, and organize how the collective would work. Finally, on August 13 we had a grand opening party attended by a couple of hundred people. The Infoshop was born!

During that summer, folks in Long Haul were in complex negotiations with NCLT, the landlord, to write a lease. Up until 1993, there was no written lease. The NCLT, in exchange for calling off the eviction, required Long Haul to sign a lease, get incorporated as a non-profit, buy insurance, pay off \$5,000 in back rent.

As soon as the written lease was signed, people in the Infoshop and the Long Haul had to figure out how to pay off all that debt. We had to pay one and a half times our normal rent for 6 months or so and then we could pay the rest off with work trade. At almost the same time, a month or two after the Infoshop started, Al and Odile announced that they were moving to Michigan and that the Infoshop crew and friends would have to assume responsibility for paying all the Long Haul rent and backrent, somehow, without their help. At the meeting where the announcement was made, the brand new Infoshoppers were scared. The Infoshop project had just started up and we had all figured we could raise \$200 a month. But \$1,200 a month!?!

In the end, although Al and Odile's departure was hard, the Infoshop crew and friends pull it all off. Offices got cleaned out and rented; the backrent was paid, and over Christmas week we insulated the ceiling as a work exchange with the Landlord to pay off the extremely old portion of the back rent debt. Through 1994 and 1995 there were more work parties, at first to clean out 15 years accumulation of "stuff" and later to rebuild the lofts, build staircases, redo the lighting, reinforce bookshelves, organize the books and archives, fix up the kitchen, paint the walls, and continually refine and improve the Infoshop.

During the whole last 5 years, the Infoshop and the other groups at Long Haul have tried to make Long Haul live up to its potential and our collective vision: a home base for radical activism in Berkeley that can sustain and nourish the movement and individual activists for struggle over the long haul. Long live the Long Haul!

¹ Copies are available at Long Haul.

INFOSHOP GRAND OPENING

8:30 pm Friday 13th
August 1993

Infoshop
3124 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 848-6466

Information is Strength

Knowledge is Power



hours: monday women's space,
wed fri sat sun open 1-7 pm

INFOSHOP GRAND OPENING!

friday 13 august 1993 8:30 pm 3124 shattuck ave berkeley
zines books patches t-shirts info, everything for the outside agitator
monday women's space; wed fri sat sun open 1-7 pm; (510) 848-6466



WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!



INFOSHOP GRAND OPENING PARTY

8:30 pm Friday 13th
August 1993

hours: monday women's space,
wed fri sat sun open 1-7 pm

Infoshop
3124 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 848-6466

zines books patches t-shirts information

MY INFOSHOP PUNK-ROCK LOVE AFFAIR

I first met him at the old Ward Street house. He had just gotten back from traveling, and had come over to have breakfast with Julia. I had just recently stopped crashing in the attic there, and was now crashing in Adam's attic, but I was avoiding something or someone or another, so was back to staying at Ward Street.

We all made pancakes together, him and me and Julia and Judy X. He had arrowroot in his backpack; I stole soymilk from the Berkeley Bowl. I can still tell you what he was wearing (mostly because he was still wearing it every time I saw him in the next month or so).

So, that's when we met. But starting to like him was a slower process. I remember sitting in the Infoshop at the table by the door talking to him and Jess about traveling and trains and his "special friend" who he's left in Chicago or Portland or somewhere. The Infoshop had started during the summer while we'd both been gone. Less than 6 months old it was up and running with Sunday cafe nights and Women's day both already regular things. It felt a lot more like an extension of someone's living room then, a lot less like a resource center. We'd all eat Food Not Bombs in the park, and then often we'd mosey over to the shop. I remember setting the hours for women's day as "Mondays after Food not Bombs until dark". We kept it like that until we were rightly chided for being exclusive and scenester like.

So he and I hung out at the shop, and then on Halloween we went Trick-or-Treating together, him and me and a bunch of other folks dressed up like huge vegetables in costumes looted from the Long Haul Food not Bombs office. Well most of us dressed like vegetables, except Andrea, the crazy Italian guy who seemed not to understand the concept of Halloween and covered his head in newspaper.

At some point in there he dropped by my house and we went all-romantic dumpstering together, giving each other rides in the shopping cart we borrowed for the purpose. I definitely had a crush on him by the time we went over to the city in the now ubiquitous Infoshop mass for an event at Epicenter on collectives. We crossed the Bay back to Berkeley in someone or another's tiny car, all of us smashed in the back together. Owing to some false pretext he ended up at Adam's with me, where he and I kept McKay awake by making out all night on the other side of the attic where McKay was trying to sleep.

I think pretty soon thereafter we kinda started to act like a couple. I would give him rides on the back of my bike; sometimes he would hang around while my band practiced. Once I kissed him by the bike rack outside the shop, though after he said he didn't think public affection was so great. We had picnics on strangers' porches, talking about revolution and relationships in that way you get to talk about it when you're 21 or 22 or however old we were.

He started to stay at Adam's a lot with me, only partially I think, because he had no house. I think we were falling in love with each other, but we were also, as we are sometimes lucky enough to have happen, falling in love with the scene. We were both working Infoshop shifts, and I had started this big women's day project that among other things necessitated staying up all night at the copy shop. I remember getting home at 3 or 4 in the morning and finding him on Adam's porch waiting for me. He wasn't locked out because the door had no key, we always just left it open.

Adam and his housemates rent-striking and then moved out- so the house filled up with Infoshoppers and Andrea the crazy Italian, and became somewhat squat-like. The landlord started to come by and threaten us, but we fought back, plotting things far more horrible than we ever got it together to accomplish. We were starting to feel kinda like a big goofy unit.

Then I lost my job for being too rude, and since his other "special friend" was on her way to Berkeley it seemed like as good a time as any to go traveling. I abandoned my shift and the women's day project and left, heading out with, among other things a long letter that he'd written me. I

carried the letter around unread for damn near forever, finally reading it at 6am on some lonely roadside in Mississippi. We wrote letters through Mississippi, New Orleans, and Chicago. I think it was the one that came to New Orleans about the me-sized hole in the scene that finally made me turn around. Well, that and my court date.

When I got back, to fill up that me sized hole, go to court, and because we were finally getting evicted there was a lot to come back to. There was my boy who had, while I'd been gone, both cut off his mohawk, and gotten his bike stolen. There was an Infoshop clinic defense team to organize, and cooperative projects with La Peña to set up. Also Pablo's dramatic reenactment of the Patty Hearst story was planned for Sunday cafe night.

Most of us moved to a different house after the landlord finally evicted us. Some of us started the study/action group we'd been talking about forever. It was composed of all Long Haulers but one, but we didn't meet at the Long Haul for fear of uninvited guests. A fairly rockin' clinic defense team was put together. He and I fought and traveled, both together and separately. We slept with other people, and with each other so loudly it became a household joke.

But then something sinister started to happen; we started to think we should get older. We cut our hair. We stopped working at the Infoshop and got real jobs. We bought a mint-chip colored car and drove it around. When it broke we bought another one. We fought a lot and went to each other's work Christmas parties. I guess it wasn't too long after all that that we broke up. When we finally did I cried and cried, missing not as much who he'd become as that mohawked boy with the one stinky set of clothes who had kissed me in Adam's attic.

**CHEAP, VEGETARIAN DINNER TO
BENEFIT RESIST!, A BI-WEEKLY
RADICAL INFO-BULLETIN.**



INFOCAFE ZAPATA!

SUNDAY, JAN. 23, 1994 7 PM

The Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705 510-848-6466

Random political & tactical rants for the Infoshop's birthday

Name the power

The "movement" such as it is has to work harder on intellectual and ideological projects. First, we need to study the sources of our oppression (capitalism, patriarchy, white supremacy, etc.) and the sources of ecological destruction. People should do this individually and in groups. The Infoshop can help by hosting study groups and by making the best publications, articles and books on these topics available. If we find particularly good articles, etc., we should try to get them out. How about an "Infoshopper's choice" board or bin?

Next, there needs to be more discussion to design programs and campaigns to fight capitalism, patriarchy, racism, industrial destruction, etc. Most importantly, we need to learn to say what we are for, not just what we are against. How would a post-capitalism, post oppression, sustainable human society look?

Finally, we need to learn to bring an over-all, system wide perspective to all of the more single-issue campaigns in which we may be involved. There are links between union-busting, the threat to Headwaters, workfare, prison and police state expansion, attacks on the public sector etc. These links are complex but we can (and must) learn to explain them effectively to other activists and ordinary people. The Infoshop should be promoting understanding of the links. We need to give neo-liberalism and corporate control, etc. a name and expose the systematic way in which it works for all to see.

This kind of exposure and understanding will get the movement for liberation moving again after the long slumber of the Reagan-Clinton years.

Comment on meetings

Movement meetings suck! When Free Radio Berkeley recently got shut down, the late-night, loud, male dominated "meeting" was a kind of anti-action, anti-recruiting machine. At the start of the night there were 80 or so people at the meeting ready to do something and get involved. By the end, all but a dozen had left (never to return) out of utter frustration with the process not the obstacles presented by the

government. Its hard enough to fight the government - but it felt like the bigger problem was ourselves. Some (possibly obvious) suggestions:

1. Political groups have a right and a duty to choose their own members - people who can work constructively together and not just talk to hear themselves talk. This is the bottom line for effectiveness.

2. We need to be a lot faster at protecting our groups from disrupters or excessive talkers. There should be a "sergeant at arms" at mass meetings to remove people who talk out of turn or disrupt the meeting. People could be given three strikes and on the third, they would be removed. This sounds harsh but would you rather have everyone free to talk at will (usually meaning that 3 or 4 men talk for more than half the meeting) or have a decision get made so we can fight the power?

3. Speak only to the point at issue. If something is being discussed, don't change the subject until the first issue is resolved.

4. People who have spoken already shouldn't speak again until everyone else who wants to has spoken.

5. Avoid personal statements and long introductions to the point you want to make.

6. Listen carefully and if someone has already made a point, don't repeat it.

7. If you are called on and don't have anything to add, you can just say "pass."

8. Beware of Robert Rules of Order bullshit like "Point of Order", "Point of Information" or "Point of Personal Privilege." These are just excuses for those who won't wait their turn to speak.

9. The purpose of the meeting is to make decisions so people can do something.

The Long Haul

Our "movement" needs to be kid and family friendly if we're really in it for the Long Haul. The typical pattern repeated in "movement" circles is that young people - 16 to 22 or so - get deeply involved in movement work and sometimes devote almost their entire lives to it for a time. This causes bum-out, and folks drift

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POLITICS ARE PUNK

I'VE 'AD V'S BIT ON ME MIND LOTS AS OF LATE... IT ALL STARTED WITH A LITTLE FLIER THINGY ME GOOD MATE ANGEL COMED UP, IT PROCLAIMED LOUDLY "POLITICS ARE PUNK SO FUCK YOU". AH YES, SUCH AN ANGEL THING TO SAY, NATURALLY, BEING THE CONTRARY BASTARD THAT I AM; THOT... "NO THEY'RE NOT!" AND AT THE TIME I WAS VEGAN AND I WAS SO STOP RUSHING TO CONCLUSIONS, BUT I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT POLITICS AND ACTIVISM AND ALL THAT SHITE A BIT BEFORE ALL THIS I HAD BEEN VOLUNTEERING AT THE LONGHAUL // INFOSHOP AND NEVER REALLY GOT ON WITH THEIR ANARCHO SOCIALISTIC WAYS AND GENERAL P.C. ANALITY BUT I DID AND STILL DO BELIEVE IN COMMUNITY CENTERS SO I STUCK WITH IT, ANYHOW I EVENTUALLY JUST GOT TOO PISSED TO KEEP ON WASTING MY TIME THERE, THAT WHOLE EXPERIENCE JUST SOURD MY OPINION OF POLITICS, POLITICS HAVE THIS WAY OF STEALING GOOD FOLK AWAY FOR SOME "CAUSE", SOON THEIR LIFE BECOMES ABSORBED BY THAT CAUSE AND LITTLE ROOM FOR NON POLITICAL EXPRESSION IS GIVEN - THE BEAUTY OF WRITING, ART, MUSIC AND EVEN NATURE AND FELLOW HUMANS IS OFTEN IGNORED IF NOT OUTRIGHT POLITICAL, AND THAT TOME IS A WRETCHED EXISTENCE, WHILE THERE IS GOOD REASON TO CARE AND TO ACT ON YOUR BELIEFS, ORGANISED POLITICS ARE ANOTHER TRAP ALONG THE LINES OF ORGANISED RELIGION. ANOTHER SHITE SYSTEM TO KEEP YOU IN LINE. I AM A DEVOUT INDIVIDUALIST, ECCENTRIC AND GENERAL NUTTER... I DON'T TOUT THE ANARCHIST LINE ANY MORE, NOR DO I FOLLOW THE PUNK LEAD, ALTHOUGH MY HEART THAT I SHOULD FIND MY OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS, ... I JUST FIGGER ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO THE SAME. SO, MY MAIN QUIP WITH POLITICS IS THAT THEY SEEK TO IMPOSE SYSTEMS AND WE ALL KNOW... "ALL... ALL SYSTEMS FAIL... SYSTEMS FAIL!" AND THAT THAT'S NO BLOODY GOOD AT ALL, SO, POINT BEING... YOUR PHILOSOPHIES AND BELIEFS SHOULD BE YOURS AND YOURS ALONE, COS WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, WHEN DEATH CREEPS ON YOUR DYING BED... AND THAT REVOLUTIONS STILL ONLY IN YOUR HEAD, YOU'LL WONDER WHERE LIFE HAS GONE... AND WHY YOU WERE SUCH A MISERABLE ONE. - GIBBLIN COUNTRY FOLK SONG.

VA SILLY FUCK!

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taken out of
"Goblin's Armpit"

Q: Where in Berkeley can you



drink coffee
while lamenting
the plight of
Latin America

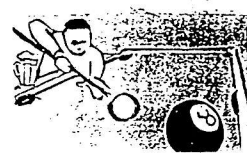
discuss scathing
socio-political
issues over
bagels



read thousand
of underground
zines such as
"The Militant
Vegan"



ponder the
musings of
Emma Goldman,
Noam Chomsky,
and Crass



not play pool
drink beer
or watch "the
game" on TV

or just hang out
at one of the only
volunteer-run
collectives
in Berkeley



All at the same
place?



INFOSHOP

3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 848-6466

zines books patches t-shirts food info more

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away, because a life 100 % focused on activism isn't rich or diverse enough to be sustained. We need to move towards a movement that is accepting of different levels of activism and that focuses on keeping people active for decades over a lifetime at whatever level of involvement they can handle at that stage in their life. Longer-term activists gain experience and confidence and have a lot to offer, even though maybe they can't stay up all night on a work night or travel as much as they develop other things important in their lives.

The movement is particularly biased against families, parents and kids. Kids take up a lot of time and cost some money, require attention, can be "disruptive", and are almost never allowed in our supposedly "cooperative" houses. New parents either don't feel they have the time and energy to stay involved or don't feel the support, space and permission to maintain movement activity.

Some suggestions:

1. Pro-kid collective houses should be developed. Groups houses are cheaper and more supportive environments for activism and can potentially share kid responsibilities to enable parents to stay active and contribute to political stuff along with non-parents.
2. Our meetings and events should be kid friendly, including childcare or children's activities where possible.
3. A kid/family advocacy cluster should be formed to work on these issues and pressure "radical" groups to be more family/parent/kid accessible.
4. We need to think of more suggestions.

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FLICK YOUR REVOLUTION! A = 20
EVERY ANARCHIST MEET ALWAYS RANTS AND
RAVES ABOUT "THE REVOLUTION" WHICH I
SUPPOSE IS SOME TIME WHEN ANARCHY TAKES
OVER. YEH. SURE. LIKE COMMUNISM AND
OTHER BOLLOX POLITICAL SYSTEMS;
ANARCHISM IS SO SET IN ITS RIGIDLY-DE-
FINED PHILOSOPHY THAT IT ISN'T OPEN
ENOUGH TO MUTATE AND ADAPT TOWARDS
EVERYONE'S NEEDS. AS A LEE PUNK SEEDLET
ANARCHY MEANT CHAOS TO ME AND THAT
I LIKED. LOOK, FUCK THESE SYSTEMS
AND JUST STRIVE TO GET ON WITH OTHER
FOLKS AND THINK FOR YOURSELF.

"Why we should close the Infoshop"

At the time we opened the Infoshop on August 13, 1993, we imagined that the Infoshop would make the direct action, anti-authoritarian movement in Berkeley and Oakland more effective. Although in the years leading up to 1993, the frequency of riots and militant actions in the Bay Area had been increasing, the radical community wasn't very coherent between street actions. People involved in setting up the Infoshop hoped that it would provide a home base for radical activism, permitting us to keep the community of struggle together between actions. We also hoped that work on alternative institutions and on-going projects would increase once we had a physical space out of which to work.

Sadly, after 5 years of experience, it appears that establishing an Infoshop here has failed to meet our goal of enlarging and strengthening the movement and has in fact dragged down the level of movement activity.

The main reason the Infoshop idea has failed is because the financial requirements of paying rent siphon energy away from activism and direct action into a constant treadmill of fundraising. The Infoshop also sucks up money that should be spent on activism directed outward (printing propaganda, banners, etc.)

Our ideas for creating the Berkeley Infoshop were largely based on the experience of Infoshops in Europe. There, Infoshops provided an important networking and organizing tool. The key difference between European and U.S. Infoshops is that most Infoshops and community spaces in Europe are squatted or government supported. While it is still a lot of work to keep these European alternative spaces going - planning events, getting reading material, keeping spaces staffed and fixed up - collectives operating them are not faced with the constant need to earn money to pay the rent. When these activists have a little money, they can spend it on useful things: publishing tracts, communications, direct action campaigns, etc.

At the Berkeley Infoshop, we have now paid approximately \$15,000 to our landlord. The entire Long Haul, of which the Infoshop is just a part, has paid the landlord about \$50,000 over the last 5 years. Raising that money, especially in a community where most people work part-time for low wages and where the punk cultural ethos dictates that everything should be free, ja

has bled the Infoshop dry, both spiritually and financially.

The problem isn't only the amount of money - it's the time required to raise the money to keep things going and the inability to spend tiny amounts on new projects because of constant debt. Hours and hours spent raising money aren't put into organizing, direct action, outreach, publicity, improving the materials at the Infoshop, etc. Gradually, this has killed the ability of the Infoshop to attract volunteers and has burned out the diehards involved in the project. Instead of being a space to nurture new alternative projects, most of the time the Infoshop and Long Haul have done little more than perpetuate their own existence.

And, largely because of the financial pressure and ever-present debt, the Infoshop collective has never been able to spend enough time (and a little money) organizing *itself* to really meet its potential. After 5 years, few people in Berkeley even know the Infoshop exists, and fewer still have any reason to come in. Cody's and any number of other local for-profit book shops have far better collections of radical zines because the Infoshop is in perpetual debt and can't pay publishers. The Infoshop also fails as a hang-out space: it often seems like your chance of being harassed by an obnoxious "activist" man or miscellaneous psychopath are higher in the Infoshop than anywhere else on the planet.

It's time to discuss with radicals in the community who aren't involved in the Long Haul, and those who used to be, if there is any point in keeping the Long Haul open. If the Long Haul is to be kept open, I propose a total moratorium on time spent fundraising so that time freed up can be spent on organizing, activism, direct action and organizing the place so it functions. Operating costs should be raised through a time or activist tax: everyone in a broadly defined community would be encouraged to donate the after-tax proceeds of 1 or 2 hours of work per month to the project, or maybe a percentage of any money made over an agreed "subsistence" amount (say \$6,000 a year.) Alternatively we should find connections with the wealthy: say an annual Green Day benefit concert? If the Long Haul is to survive as a project, it needs to do better than just paying the rent: it has to be the base for living activists projects that fight the system. -PB

Stop the war on drugs!

* You may have heard that the Long Haul has been broken into a lot recently. One week recently we had 3 break-ins in one week, doing tons of damage to our backdoor, skylights, Infoshop counter, etc. The thief only got \$5 in change (since we don't keep \$ in the Long Haul anymore) but it is still annoying to spend all our time fixing theft related damage and being paranoid.

All this points out why it is crucial to end the War on Drugs and get drugs legalized so there can be legal, cheap drugs for anyone who wants them. Studies show that the vast majority of property crimes (as high as 80 percent) are to get money to pay inflated prices for illegal drugs. The War on Drugs is only a price support system for illegal drug dealers and narco-tycoons. It can never stop drug use, but it can and has made drugs so expensive that it is very hard to buy them without being forced into petty crime: car window smashes, prostitution, muggings, and breaking into the Long Haul, etc. Treatment for addictive drugs should be available *on demand* (which would be way cheaper than cops and prisons) and if people smoke pot or do other non-addictive drugs, who cares. The average "tough on crime" citizen mostly wants to stop annoying property crimes and the threat of violence, and doesn't care about letting people get stoned or whether some people fuck up their health on heroin, etc. Who's going to spend an hour breaking Long Haul's back door down for \$5 in change if drugs were cheap and legal?

By the way, if you have stolen from the Long Haul/and or tried to break-in, etc., FUCK YOU! Steal from the corporations, not a volunteer run community center. If we catch you (and we're watching) we're not going to call the cops, but you'll wish we had.

Drugs at the Infoshop

One of the best experiences I had at the Long Haul was during the first or second Infoshop anniversary party. I was just getting ready to leave the party, which had been going for a while and was a typical and somewhat boring movement event with awkward activists mixed in with more culturally smooth folks, talking politics and wandering around. While I was saying goodbye to folks, I saw friend who had brought back a new boyfriend from the Rainbow gathering. The two of them were in the back brewing mushroom tea and giving it out to the party. At first I thought "its too late to trip tonight." My friend was so nice--she made me a doggie bag in a used beer can to use later.

I walked out into the big room, still ready to go home, and looked around. All of the meetings and work parties and shifts and work that went into making the Infoshop and Long Haul a success had made the assembled, motley crew of activists a community. Like any extended family, we fought and argued and there were more and less constructive members of the family (or members trying to construct different kinds of lives) but I felt a real community here. I decided to throw caution to the wind and drink the tea. Later, we lay on the roof tripping and talking and watching for shooting stars. Finally, I ended up lying in the big room looking up at the brand new silver insulation, which was illuminated by a red light bulb. The pattern on the insulation, the crinkles and the red light were amazing!